

App. No. 10/673,315.
Preliminary Amendment Accompanying RCE

LISTING OF CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. **(currently amended)** A balance comprising a housing (1) with a bottom (6), at least one display/operating unit (13), at least one cable (14) connecting the at least one display/operating unit (13) to the balance, a corridor compartment (24) arranged at the bottom (6) for storing an unused length of the at least one cable (14), and at least one exit opening (22, 29, 30) from the corridor compartment (24) for the cable (14) to pass through, wherein the at least one display/operating unit (13) can be placed adjacent to the housing (1) as well as at a distance from the housing (1), and wherein the corridor compartment (24) has a height that is sufficiently small ~~is configured in a way that the~~ cable (14) is freely movable only horizontally inside the corridor compartment (24) so that a required length of cable can be pulled out of the corridor compartment (24) or an unused length of cable can be pushed into the corridor compartment (24).
2. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, wherein the corridor compartment (24) is integrated in the bottom (6).
3. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, further comprising guide elements (26, 27, 28) arranged in the corridor compartment (24) to guide the cable (14).
4. **(original)** The balance of claim 3, wherein the guide elements (26, 27, 28) are configured as guide walls that are integrated in the corridor compartment (24).
5. **(original)** The balance of claim 4, wherein said guide walls are curved and have shapes selected from the group consisting of hook shapes, U-shapes, and S-shapes.
6. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, further comprising a weighing-related electronic circuit and a cable plug (23) on the cable (14) to connect the cable (14) to said weighing-related electronic circuit inside the balance.

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7. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, wherein the display/operating unit (13) is connectable to the housing (1).
8. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, further comprising an intermediate member (10), which holds the display/operating unit (13) in place on the housing (1).
9. **(original)** The balance of claim 8, wherein the intermediate member (10) is configured to be plugged into at least one of the housing (1) and the display/operating unit (13).
10. **(original)** The balance of claim 8, wherein the intermediate member (10) comprises a flat portion (21) that is usable to carry information.
11. **(original)** The balance of claim 8, further comprising a first emitter/receiver unit (43) arranged on the intermediate member (10) and a second emitter/receiver unit arranged in the display/operating unit (13), so that electronic signals can be transmitted between the first and second emitter/receiver units.
12. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, wherein the at least one exit opening (22, 29, 30) comprises on each of at least two different sides of the corridor compartment (24) at least one exit opening (22, 29, 30) for the at least one cable (14).
13. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, wherein the at least one cable (14) comprises a plurality of cables and the at least one exit opening (22, 29, 30) comprises a plurality of exit openings, and wherein the corridor compartment (24) is configured to accommodate said cables so that each can be pulled out or pushed in through a different one of said exit openings.
14. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, wherein the corridor compartment (24) has an underside covered by a bottom plate (32).

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15. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, wherein the at least one cable (14) comprises a cable plug (15) at a cable end that is connectable to the display/operating unit (13), and wherein the display/operating unit (13) comprises a plug-in socket for the cable plug (15).
16. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, wherein the display/operating unit (13) can be set at an adjustable tilt angle.
17. **(original)** The balance of claim 1, wherein the at least one display/operating unit (13) comprises a plurality of display/operating units that can be connected to the balance simultaneously.
18. **(original)** The balance of claim 2, further comprising guide elements (26, 27, 28) being configured as guide walls that are integrated in the corridor compartment (24) to guide the cable (14).
19. **(original)** The balance of claim 2, further comprising an intermediate member (10), which holds the display/operating unit (13) in place on the housing (1).
20. **(original)** The balance of claim 19, wherein the intermediate member (10) is configured to be plugged into at least one of the housing (1) and the display/operating unit (13).